Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the specification as follows:

Page 1, first full paragraph (lines 8-11)

This invention relates to a sheet feeder in an image forming apparatus ~~to convey~~ for conveying a special sheet on the same conveying path for an ordinary sheet in an image forming apparatus such as a copier, printer, etc.

Page 1, second full paragraph (lines 13-23)

In electro-photographic type image forming ~~apparatus~~ apparatuses such as copiers, printers, etc., frequently used, standard-size ordinary ~~sheet of high using frequency~~ sheets are supplied using sheet cassettes while ~~sheet of low using frequency~~ sheets used less frequently are generally supplied using a manual sheet supply tray. In the case of sheet supply from a manual sheet supply tray, various kinds of ~~sheet~~ sheets placed on the manual supply tray are taken out by a pick-up roller and then, supplied to aligning rollers by way of a sheet guide. In such an apparatus, side rollers are adjustably provided to the manual sheet supply tray to control the sheet width in order to prevent skew of the sheet on a conveying path from the sheet supply tray to the aligning rollers.

Page 1, last paragraph (lines 24-26), continuing on page 2 (lines 1-9)

However, in the case of special ~~sheet~~ sheets such as postcards, other cards, etc. which are different from ordinary sheet in material, larger in mass and relatively smaller in size than ordinary sheet, sheet supply rollers for supplying ordinary ~~sheet~~ sheets do not have ~~no~~ enough energy and cannot ~~be able to~~ obtain sufficient conveying power for conveying ~~sheet~~ sheets between the sheet supply rollers and aligning rollers, and the sheet may possibly be skewed on the sheet guide. Particularly, when aligning rollers for vertical conveyance are used in company with the downsizing of an image forming apparatus, the sheet skew ~~tended~~ tends to occur on the sheet guide while the special sheet supplied from a horizontal sheet supply tray ~~was~~ is guided vertically in the direction of aligning rollers.

Page 2, first full paragraph (lines 10-20)

As a countermeasure to prevent the skew of the sheet, a sheet supply construction to prevent various kinds of standard-size ~~sheet~~ sheets from tilting by providing ribs of which width is widened gradually according to standard-sizes of sheet on the outside of the curved portion to reverse standard-size sheet supplied from sheet supply cassettes is disclosed in the Japanese Patent Disclosure No. 6-284168 as a measure to prevent the sheet skew. Further, a sheet feeder provided with ribs to the side guide plated corresponding to sheet widths to prevent skew when standard-size sheet supplied from sheet supply cassettes are vertically conveyed is disclosed in the Japanese Patent ~~Dioselosure~~ Disclosure No. 7-76438.

Page 2, last paragraph (lines 21-26)

However, the outside walls of the curved portion or the side guide plates provided with the ribs are to prevent the skew of standard-side sheet supplied from sheet supply cassettes and not for preventing skew when a special sheet of postcard, other cards, ~~etc.~~ etc., which are large in mass and relatively small in size, are manually supplied.

Page 3, second full paragraph (lines 8-11)

It is an object of this invention to prevent skew of a special sheet which ~~are~~ is large in mass and relatively small in size when conveyed to aligning rollers from a manual sheet supply tray without impairing the conveying efficiency of ordinary sheet.

Page 3, third full paragraph (lines 12-22)

According to ~~the~~ one embodiment of this invention, the sheet feeder of this invention is provided with a manual sheet supply unit to supply the special sheet and the ~~other~~ sheet other than the special sheet, a conveying member to convey the special sheet and the ~~other~~ sheet other than the special sheet supplied from the manual sheet supply unit in the image forming direction and special ribs provided between the manual sheet supply unit and the conveying member to control both sides of the special sheet. The special ~~sheet~~ sheets are inserted between the special sheet ribs and are guided by the special sheet ribs while ~~other~~

~~sheet than the special sheet~~ the sheets other than the special sheets are guided by a sheet guide by passing on the upper surface of the special sheet ribs.

Page 3, last paragraph (lines 23-26), continuing on page 4 (lines 1-8)

Further, according to ~~the~~ one embodiment of this invention, the sheet feeder is provided with a manual sheet supply unit to supply special ~~sheet~~ sheets and ~~other sheet~~ sheets other than the special sheet on the manual sheet supply tray, aligning rollers to align the leading edges of the special sheet and ~~other~~ the sheet other than the special sheet supplied from the manual sheet supply unit and convey in the image forming direction, special sheet ribs provided between the manual sheet supply unit and the aligning roller to control both sides of the special sheet, and a sheet guide to guide the special sheet by inserting them between the special sheet ribs and guide the sheet other than the special sheet by passing it on the upper surface of the special sheet ribs.

Page 4, first full paragraph, (lines 11-17)

FIG. 1 is a schematic explanatory diagram showing a sheet conveying path of an image forming apparatus in ~~an~~ one embodiment of this invention;

FIG. 2 is a construction diagram showing a manual sheet conveying portion of ~~the~~ one embodiment of this invention;

FIG. 3 is a schematic perspective diagram showing a sheet guide in ~~the~~ one embodiment of this invention.

Page 4, last full paragraph, (lines 20-26), continuing on page 5 (lines 1-2)

A preferred embodiment of this invention will be explained below in detail referring to the attached drawings. FIG. 1 is a schematic explanatory diagram showing a sheet conveying path 10a of an image forming apparatus 10 in ~~an~~ one embodiment of this invention. Image forming apparatus 10 processes various image forming jobs according to normal copier functions, printer function for image forming on sheet P according to image

data input from personal computers or further, facsimile function to form images on sheet P according to image data fed from telephone circuits.

Page 5, second full paragraph, (lines 11-23)

Manual feed sheet conveying section 11 shown in FIG. 2 conveys sheet P from a manual sheet supply unit 12 to an aligning roller 14 that is an aligning member through a sheet guide 13. Paper supply unit 12 has a manual sheet supply tray 15 on which sheet P in different sizes or materials are placed almost horizontally. On the bottom surface of manual sheet supply tray 15, side guides 15a to prevent skew of sheet P by defining both sides of various kinds of sheet are attached in the state to be able to slide in the direction orthogonal to the sheet supply direction. Paper supplied from manual sheet supply tray 15 is not restricted to standard-size ordinary ~~sheet~~ sheets such as, for example, A4, A3 sizes, etc. or special ~~sheet~~ sheets such as postcards and other cards in larger mass than standard-size sheet.

Page 5, last full paragraph, (lines 23-26), continuing on page 6 (lines 1-8)

At a position opposite to manual sheet supply tray 15, there is a pick-up roller 16 that ~~descend~~ descends onto sheet P while oscillating when supplying sheet. At the end of manual sheet supply tray 15, there are provided a sheet supply roller 17 and a separation seat 17a to separate sheet P taken out by pick-up roller 16 and supply in the direction of sheet guide 13. Aligning roller 14 aligns the leading edges of sheet P supplied from manual sheet supply tray 15 in the vertical state and conveys in the direction of transferring charger 3, that is the direction of the image forming unit. Paper guide 13 is provided between manual sheet supply feeder 11 and aligning roller 14.

Page 6, second full paragraph, (lines 18-23)

~~There is a Mylar~~™ A pressing member 20 is provided between special sheet rib pairs 18a as pressing members to push up the end of ordinary sheet P2 passing through sheet guide 13. ~~Mylar~~ The pressing member 20 is attached to sheet guide 13 by a mounting portion 20a to oscillate and when a postcard P1 passes, ~~mylar~~ the pressing member 20 is pushed down. The pressing member may be made from polyester film such as Mylar.

Page 6, last full paragraph, (lines 23-26), continuing on page 7 (lines 1-6)

Next, the operation will be explained. When post cards P1 are placed on manual sheet supply tray 15 and the image forming process is started, postcard P1 at the top position is taken out by a pick-up roller that rotates in the arrow direction q, and separated and supplied in the direction of sheet guide 13 by a sheet supply roller 17 that rotates in the arrow direction r and a separation seat 17a. Then, postcard P1 is inserted between special sheet rib pairs 18a of sheet guide 13 and conveyed vertically to aligning roller 14 while ~~its~~ both its sides are regulated by special sheet rib pairs 18a.

Page 7, second full paragraph, (lines 7-16), third full paragraph (lines 17-25)

At this time, ~~mylar~~ the pressing member 20 is descended by an empty weight of postcard P1. Therefore, both sides of postcard P1 are regulated sufficiently by special sheet rib pairs 18a and reaches ~~a~~ an aligning roller 14 without being skewed. Hereafter, postcard P1 is conveyed vertically in the direction of the transferring charger 3 of the image forming apparatus 10 in ~~synchronous~~ concurrence with a toner image on photo-sensitive drum 2 by aligning roller 14. At the position of transferring charger 3, the toner image on photo-sensitive drum 2 is transferred on postcard P1 and after the toner image is fixed, postcard P1 is discharged on the sheet discharge tray 6.

Then, ordinary sheet P2 is taken out from the manual sheet supply tray 15 by the pick-up roller 16 likewise postcard P1 and separated and supplied in the direction of the sheet guide 13 by the sheet supply roller 17 and separation seat 17a. Ordinary sheet P2 supplied to the sheet guide 13 passes the upper surfaces of special sheet rib 18a and support rib 18b of sheet guide 13, and is vertically conveyed to aligning roller 14 with a side of ordinary sheet P2 ~~its back~~ supported. At this time, ~~mylar~~ the pressing member 20 prevents the bending of the central portion of ordinary sheet P2 by pressings the ~~back of the~~ central portion of a side of ordinary sheet P2 by its elastic force.

Page 7, last full paragraph, (line 26), continuing on page 8 (lines 1-7)

Hereafter, leading edges of ordinary sheet P2 are aligned at the position of the aligning roller 14 by the sheet supply force of the sheet supply roller 17 and conveyed vertically in the direction of the transferring charger 3 of image forming apparatus 10 in ~~synchronous~~ concurrence with a toner image on the photo-sensitive drum 2 likewise postcard P1. Thereafter, ordinary sheet P2 is discharged on ~~sheet~~ the discharged sheet receiving tray 6 after the transferring process and the fixing process.

Page 8, second full paragraph, (lines 8-12), third full paragraph (lines 13-22)

The image forming was made with this image forming apparatus 10 by supplying sheet using manual sheet supply tray 15. As a result, postcards P1 could be conveyed satisfactorily without causing skew and a good image was obtained on the ordinary sheet P1 without generating such a defect as image void at the central portion.

According to this embodiment, special sheet rib 18a is provided at the center of sheet guide 13 which leads sheet P to aligning roller 14 from manual sheet supply tray 15 for inserting postcard P1 and controlling ~~its~~ both ~~side~~ sides and therefore, postcard P1 can be conveyed vertically to aligning roller 14 without causing the skew even when the sheet supply force of sheet supply roller 17 is not increased. Further, it is also possible to convey ordinary sheet P2 vertically to aligning roller 14 while supporting ~~its back~~ a side of ordinary sheet P2 by special sheet rib 18a likewise another support rib 18b without bending the central portion.

Page 8, last full paragraph, (line 23), continuing on page 9 (lines 1-5)

Furthermore, as ~~the back of~~ the central portion of a side of ordinary sheet P1 is pressed by ~~mylar~~ the pressing member 20, the bending of the ~~cener~~ center is prevented surely in spite of somewhat wider distance between special sheet ribs 18a and a good image is obtained without causing defecting images. Accordingly, both ordinary sheet P2 and postcard P1 can be satisfactorily conveyed vertically from manual sheet supply tray 15 and a good image can e be formed and it becomes possible to achieve the practical use of a small image forming apparatus.

Page 9, first full paragraph, (lines 6-13), second full paragraph, (lines 14-26, continuing on page 10 (line 1)

Further, this invention is not restricted to the embodiment described above but ~~cane~~ can be modified variously within the scope of the invention. For instance, an image forming apparatus can be a color image forming apparatus or a dual image forming apparatus and the number of sheet cassettes to supply standard-size ordinary sheet, kinds of ordinary sheet and the like are optional. Further, the special sheets that are supplied by a manual sheet supply unit ~~is also~~ are not restricted to postcards and material, mass and size are optional.

According to this invention as described above in detail, even when a special sheet in large mass and small size is conveyed in the vertical direction after supplied from the manual sheet supply unit, skew of the special sheet can be prevented without increasing the conveying force of the sheet supply roller by inserting the special sheet between the special sheet ribs formed on the sheet guide. Further, when a sheet other than the special sheet is supplied from the manual sheet supply unit, a defective image caused by the bending of the sheet can be prevented when the sheet is passed on the upper surface of the special sheet ribs of the sheet guide. Accordingly, the special sheet and the sheet other than special sheet supplied from the manual sheet supply unit can be conveyed satisfactorily regardless of the conveying direction and the practical application of a small sized image forming apparatus for a good image formation can be achieved.